

No 11

Memphis Tenn 1863

Aug 21

My Dearest Elizabeth

Yours of the 9 came to hand yestarday and never have you writen a letter to me that gave me reason to rejoice over it than the one I am about to answer may God bless and take care of you my own dear and true wife I am pleased that marshall is better for I know how bad you would feel my dear to lose him I hope you will take good care of your health my dear for I feel so bad to hear that you are sick and do not enjoy yourself I guess your acts dear are all strait but I have not time at presant to figure them up will do so the first opertunity and if I discover any mistake will inform you of it you said you hoped I could continue to love you my dear I will continue to love you as well as ever wife was loved yes dear unless you give me reason to feel otherwise I will continue to love you as long as this wourld revolves around on its own axel as long and lasting as eternity my dear ~~my love I will be love you~~ my love will be for you unless you give some cause that will change my heart yes dear wife every days absence from you serves ondy to make my love stronger and stronger for my own Dear Dear Elizabeth oh how thankfull I am to god that he has given me one sweet beaing in this wourld that I can love and that love for you dear wife is my gardien angel that keeps me in the path of virtue and with the help of god shields me and saves me from all the disgracefull and awfull temptations by wich I am surounded and you need have no fears my dear wife my marrage vows will be kept as sacred as the word of god with his divine asistance I shall never disgrace myself nor you by any thing I may do while away from you by cowardice or shirking duty or any abominable indulgences have confidence in your housband dear and fear not for I know if you could but feel how I love you all fears would fly now dear we must feel thankfull to god for all this for I have no strength nor power in me to resist all theas things but what comes from god yes dear it is the divine influence of his holy spirrit that guides me and it is prayre and earnest suplication to god that brings the spirit to resist and I beleave the prayers of my dear and loveing wife at home ~~tha~~ are being answered every day oh dear thear is power in pray so keen on my dear and dont think that I ever go to bed at night before asking God for his blessings to rest upon you to take care of you and the children to keep you in the path of virtue and honour and to give you power to resist the

temptations of the wicked and that he would give you a longing and thirsting after righteousness but I must stop writing in this stile hoping you will excuse me for dwelling so long upon one point but when I begin to advise you or to tell you how much I love you my whole ~~sole~~ soul is meening so much more than I can right and my heart yerns to clasp you to my ~~heart~~ boosom that I could write for ever and then fail to put my feelings on paper = my dear I know and imagine your felings while you was writeing how you ~~feel~~ should feel if you had dealings with another man you said you should feel that our marage contract was broken and you could never look me in the face agane you cannot imagine how thankfull I felt I stoped reading and thanked god most earnestly that your Ideas wear so pure and good and oh how I sudered when I thought and asked myself the question what should I do if you Should yeal to vile temptation I think it would be one of the most terrible things that could hapen to me and I should loose all controll of my feelings and comit some act that would dam my soul in eternal perdition but blesed be god dear I have no fears in god is my trust and he is all powerfull and mighty to save if we ondy ask him you say dear and I know that many a brave soldiers wife has yealded to the vile temptor and become sunk in degridation and sin I should never want to see home again if I was hear Housband my dear you make me proud when telling me that thear has gone a good report of me to my sweet home no I am not proud but thankfull that this is the case and I fell encouraged to go on and strive to do better still and oh may god help me scince I have left home I have always tryed to do my duty as a soldier and one who fered god ~~he~~ who has asisted me in all that was good and if I ever return I mean to never give just cause for any person to say anything to injure my caractor I have never writen to your Brother but would do so if I had his adress but I have not you send me the adress of your aunt in England but said nothing why you done (?) so (?) do you want me to write to her or have you heard from her scince I left I write to your mother wich is dear to me on account of my darling wife quiet often but get no answers in return I am indeed very sory dear wife that you lost your tooth you must look like old scratch on account of it bad luck to the pankake that done it anyhow I guess I will know yet dear wife if you have ondy lost one tothe you wear right in saying you beleaved I should love you though you looked old yes dear I will love you though you should lose all your teath and eyes and become bauld headed you need not laugh my love nothing can change but I think you must get

the tothe by another before I get home so that you may look as much as posibely as you did when I left and be very carfull when you eat pankakes again if you had been eating soldiers crackers I should not have been as much suprised as I was never mind dear wife wether I am spared to come home or not gods will be done meet me in heaven whare parting will be no more oh I am so glad that you are striveing to live a christian and will pray that god will asist you on you speak of the Hardship that Thomas Had to pass through yes my Elizabeth after reading all you can and having it discribed to you as well as posibely you can then forme no Idea of the soldiers hardships I am glad that [?]ands it so well now my dear wife I have answered your letter and made remarks upon it and I scarcely know what to fill this sheet up with I wrote ondy a few days ago to you how ever I went down to the living (?) roome to draw clothing yestarday the room is in charge of an old lady that looks very much like your mother she goes by the name of mother in the Hospital a fine old lady she is I got in conversation and gave her my history wich you have herde me repeat so often of corse I told her how I became acquainted with you and how ~~you~~ you worked me while rakeing after me I put all the flurishes on you know I thought she would laugh untill she would hurt herself to see me mothening (?) it of she then made me go and get your picture and show her and as soon as she seen she said it was mary Mannon the lady I told you of

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~~My Dearest Elizabeth~~

that resembled you so much and it took considerable to convince her different I have shown your likeness to many of my friends and they say it looks like Mary but I do not see so much of a resemblance you are larger she is about the size you wear when first I seen you but you both have your hair cut alike I know my dear that she has not so great and true a heart as you have yet I think so she is a fine woman and takes such good care of the sick in her ward my lady nurse looks like Mrs Delate she is a good woman her name is Margarote Messerow and then there are to [o]ther ladies hear that I feel a brothers love for their names are Margarate Miller and Margorate Soffer they always call me brother and come to me when they are in trouble I have to go and walk with them go to church with them and it does seem to fill in a measure the longings for home I should miss the ladies much if they should leave for most of the soldiers if you go out with them are teasing you to drink or roll ten pins or play billiards so I do not go out with them often but after supper I generally take a stroll by myself or with some of the ladies whose company I do enjoy so much while I am far away from my darling wife if there is one I like better than the rest it is the one that resembles you I like her because she has a look that recalls to my mind with much force the memory of her I love so much that is at home in Ill now dear wife you must not become jealous for all these ladies are married and husbands in this war and if it was not for the kind and sweet influences that they through around the Hospital I should be the most discontented person in it for most or all of those in charge our present officers are drunkards and the worst kind of characters they frequent those Hells of infamy and it would be a poorly managed Hospital were the ladies sent away and the influence their presence casts around many that would be raffians without I suppose my dear you have seen Ceanten (?) and Bush he called to see me he has a noble heart I will hate to see him go back without me for I very tired of Hospital duties while such officers has charge dont let Sarah read all your letters I dont want them to read all I write to my girl (?) I send you my heart and many kisses and hope to soon hear from my dear wife againe Thos Hannah

I know you will think this is a poor letter but I have no news